



BIG SKY LIBRARIES

MONTANA STATE LIBRARY



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Commissioner's Corner

by State Superintendent Linda McCullough, MSL Commission

As a new year begins, I think back to the events that stand out from 2001...to how this long-time school librarian is now the State Superintendent of K-12 public schools...to the month of September, when all Americans became citizens of New York City...and to the past holiday season, when our Office of Public Instruction employees donated 1,700 pounds of food to Helena Food Share, as well as distributed countless boots, mittens, hats, snow pants, books and Christmas presents to numerous needy children in the Helena area. Many happy and sad memories flow over me.

It is clear to me that the theme of the past few months has been "sharing, both what we have and what we don't have much of; helping out one's neighbor, whether he/she is down the street or 3000 miles away; and cooperating, in ways we might not have thought of 10 years ago."

I have always been most proud of the way we share, help and cooperate with each other in Montana's "Library Land." Our professional association and yearly conference encompass all kinds of libraries—public, special, schools, academic and state as well as librarians, library media specialists, library trustees, volunteers, and those who just plain love libraries (who couldn't, you ask?).

Through the MLA conference, we not only learn from librarians in our own field, we also learn from those working in libraries that serve a variety

of customers perhaps unlike our own. Over the years, we've learned how our K-12 students can benefit from services and programs at their local public libraries, how university students or professors may be served by materials from MSL or one of Montana's special libraries, perhaps, that of a hospital or medically-related library, and on and on. This is our strength. Sharing, helping and cooperating makes us all stronger and better informed.

Each legislative session we all pull together to support or oppose issues that we, as the library community, feel strongly about. We even share our resources and hire professional lobbyists to devote their time to our issues. Many of us travel to Helena to speak in person on an issue or bill, or write letters, send emails or faxes, or make telephone calls. Not all Legislators agree with our positions, but most would agree that we work together as a library community and when it comes to common issues, there is a seamless web of all library types working together. This is our strength. Sharing, helping and cooperating makes us all stronger and better informed.

As a State Library Commission we support many cooperative multitype library projects: The Montana Library Network, WorldCat, the shared catalog contract between the MSL and SIRSI.

There's also the statewide database

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Karen Strege
State Librarian

A Word From Our State Librarian

I wish you all a happy and healthy New Year! The State Library is beginning the New Year with a typical January activity – making resolutions. Our resolutions are in the form of a strategic plan, which is a set of promises that we make to ourselves and you – our users.

I hope that our resolutions are based on a realis-

tic assessment of our resources and abilities. Choosing which resolutions to adopt and saying “no” to some is very difficult. However, we don’t want to make resolutions we can’t keep. We hope that we choose to focus our resources on a few important goals to make changes which matter to Montana citizens.

Unlike personal resolutions, which one may prefer to keep secret, MSL wants and needs your inspection of our promises. Please give us your comments on the draft strategic plan, which will be available by the first of February for your scrutiny. And may you all have the strength, time, and resources to fulfill all your resolutions this year!

Libri Foundation 2002 Books for Children Grants

The Libri Foundation is currently accepting applications for its spring and summer 2002 Books for Children grants.

The Libri Foundation is a nationwide non-profit organization which donates new, quality, hardcover children's books to small, rural public libraries throughout the U.S. Since October 1990, the Foundation has donated over \$1,500,000 worth of new children's books to more than 1,400 libraries in 47 states.

The Libri Foundation will match any amount of money raised by a library's local sponsors from \$50 to \$350 on a 2-to-1 ratio. Thus, a library can receive up to \$1,050 worth of new, quality, hardcover children's books. After a library receives a grant, local sponsors have four months, or longer if necessary, to raise matching funds.

The librarian selects the books her library will receive from a booklist of more than 640 provided by the Foundation. These titles, for children ages 12 and under, are award-winners or have received starred reviews in library, literary, and education journals. The booklist also includes a selection of classic children's titles.

Eligible libraries serve a rural population under 10,000 (usually under 5,000), have a limited operating budget, and an active children's department.

Rural is considered to be at least 30 miles from a city with a population over 40,000. Town libraries with operating budgets over \$125,000 and county libraries with operating budgets over \$250,000 are rarely given grants.

A school library may apply only if it also serves as the public library (i.e. it is open to the gen-

eral public and has summer hours). A branch library may apply if the community it is in meets the definition of rural. If the branch library receives its funding from its parent institution, then the parent institution's operating budget, not just the branch library's operating budget, must meet the budget guidelines.

Previous grant recipients are eligible to apply for a second grant three years after the receipt of their first grant.

Application (postmark) deadlines: February 1st, April 1st, and August 1st. Award dates are the end of February, April, and August. Contact Ms. Barbara J. McKillip, President, The Libri Foundation, PO Box 10246, Eugene, OR 97440. 541-747-9655 (voice); 541-747-4348 (fax); librifdn@teleport.com (email); <http://www.librifoundation.org> (web site).

(Commissioner's Corner —Continued from page 1)

purchase of InfoTrac – a terrific example of our efforts to stretch our dollars and put new tools within reach of all types of libraries which would not have been able to afford it without a group purchase plan. There is power in numbers (this librarian can attest to that)! There's also the Lake County project which combines the efforts of all the libraries in Lake County to lend materials to each other and to provide a bookmobile with NEW materials to circulate. This is our strength. Sharing, helping and cooperating makes us all stronger and better informed.

The Commissioner of Higher Education assembled a taskforce of academic, public and state agency librarians, and the Office of Public Instruction to draft a vision statement, select a single online catalog for the Montana University System and establish an ongoing process that supports collaborative efforts that will enhance the availability of information resources. The taskforce's vision statement is: "We envision Montana as a state where citizens have easy access to all information that is relevant, timely, and appropriate to their needs. Montana libraries work together to provide this information." This is our strength. Sharing, helping and cooperating makes us all stronger and better informed.

If you haven't already made your New Year's resolution (other than the one I make every year to shed a few pounds), I challenge you to make yours library-related – to get to know personally other librarians or library lovers in

your community, to find a way to share ideas and do cooperative purchases, to loan whatever items you can to another library, and to attend or give input to an MSL Commission meeting. We are tentatively planning meetings to be held around the state, as well as in Helena at MSL. Stop by our meetings, sit in or just say hi! Individually, we may be a school principal, a public library director, an attorney, a Montana highway patrol officer, a university library director or a statewide elected official. Together we're a friendly bunch and we love libraries. This is our strength! Sharing, helping and cooperating makes us all stronger and better informed.

Happy 2002 from your Montana State Library Commissioners!

2002 MSL Commission Meeting Dates

February 13 — MSL in Helena
 April 10 — MSL in Helena
 June 12 In Havre (tentatively)
 August 7 In conjunction with the Pacific Northwest Library Association's conference in Missoula (tentatively)
 October 9 — MSL in Helena
 December 11— MSL in Helena

Statewide Poll to Feature Questions About Public Libraries

MSL has commissioned the University of Montana's Bureau of Business and Economic Research to include questions about public library use and services in the March "Montana Poll."

The Bureau conducts this poll quarterly to determine Montana residents' opinions on a variety of matters. Only adults are eligible for the poll, which uses scientific sampling methods to insure a sampling error of plus or minus five percent.

MSL is working with the Bureau's staff to craft questions about the respondent's use of specific library services, why non-users do not use the library, and the user's satisfaction with particular services.

MSL will share this information with the library community. MSL also plans to commission the same poll in five years to measure whether its efforts have impacted the use and satisfaction with public library services.



"MSL is working with the Bureau's staff to craft questions about the respondent's use of specific library services, why non-users do not use the library, and the user's satisfaction..."

Offline 2002 Co-Sponsored by MLN



William Moen, Assistant Professor School of Library and Information Sciences, University of North Texas

Offline will be co-sponsored by the Montana Library Network [MLN]. MLN staff are happy to work with the Offline interest group of the Montana Library Association to bring you this great conference.

If Java means portable code, then XML [Extended Markup Language] means portable data. Many have suggested that XML will soon transform our catalogs, library e-content, and the Internet. All of us need to learn more about XML.

This introductory workshop will address the purpose and function of the XML, with special attention to potential XML library applications. Included in the workshop will be discussion of XML concepts, tools for XML creation and maintenance, database

considerations, and example applications. The connection between XML and Z39.50 will also be covered.

The objectives of this workshop are to introduce XML terminology and concepts, identify strategic and practical uses of XML in libraries, and examine current projects and initiatives using XML.

Registration is required. However, thanks to MLN the pre-conference is free.

Registration forms are available online at: <http://montanalibraries.org/> or you can contact Heidi Sue Adams, Medical Librarian, Kalispell Regional Medical Center Library, (406) 752-1739 or hadams@krmc.org

Interlibrary Loan Reimbursement Committee Appointed

The State Library appointed a committee to study the state's Interlibrary Loan reimbursement program and charged the group with making recommendations to the State Library. Meeting in November, the committee, which is facilitated by Mary Bushing, heard a report regarding the past 10 years of the program and identified trends in interlibrary loan. Members are: Anita Scheetz, Fort Peck Community College Tribal Library in Poplar; Bill Cochran, Parmly Billings Library; Jane Howell, Montana State University-Billings Library; John Thomas, Corlette Library at Carroll College in Helena; Marianne Farr, St. Patrick's Hospital Center for Health Information in Missoula; Nancy Brennan, Bicentennial Library of Colstrip; Patricia Collins, Mansfield Library in Missoula; Sinda Puryer, Flathead Valley

Community College Library in Kalispell; and Suzanne Goodman, Park High School Library in Livingston.

Meeting notes are available on MSL's web page at <http://msl.state.mt.us/LDD/ILLMeeting.htm>.

At the November meeting, the group asked MSL to develop and post an online survey about interlibrary activity. To date, 109 library staff members have completed the survey. Members also planned to conduct independent research with their peers concerning ILL in Montana. Members will meet again on February 4 to discuss the survey and study results and to create their final recommendations. Contact: Karen Strege, State Librarian, at 444-3115.

Donations Make DV Collection Possible

In 1995, a generous donation was received from the John Beck family, originally of Butte. Their donation made it possible for the Montana Talking Book Library (MTBL) to start a Descriptive Video (DV) collection in John's honor.

DVs are videos (usually of popular or classic American movies) with a narrator's voice describing the action in a scene with little or no dialogue. A DV can be played on any VHS-VCR. A patron must have his or her own VHS-VCR since MTBL has no VHS-VCRs to loan to patrons.

Due to continued donations by our original donors and others who have enjoyed this collection, the collection now currently holds over 210 movies. These donations enable us to purchase six videos each year.

MTBL was one of the first libraries of its kind to start a DV collection. It has proven to

be very popular with our patrons.

We recently started adding more classic movies to the collection.

The benefits for blind and low vision patrons borrowing DVs include being able to sit down with family and "view" the same movie together, keeping up with current popular movies, and enjoying classic movies that are now in narrative format. Younger patrons have the benefit of viewing the same movies that their schoolmates rent at the video store.

DVs are mailed free matter to our patrons. To qualify to borrow DVs, MTBL patrons must be on book service for 6 months and in good standing with MTBL services. DVs are loaned at the discretion of the MTBL. If you have any questions about DVs or other MTBL services, call 1-800-332-3400.



"DVs are videos...with a narrator's voice describing the action in a scene where there is little or no dialogue."

GIS Day a Success for NRIS

On November 14, 2001, three 5th grade classes at Smith and Jefferson Elementary Schools in Helena were treated to fun, information-filled, interactive Geographic Information System [GIS] Day presentations by T.J. Abbenhaus, GIS Programmer/Analyst with Montana's Natural Resource Information System (NRIS).

Each student was given a personalized Certificate of Participation, along with a take-home flyer listing several links to geography-themed websites to facilitate extra-curricular

learning. The presentations received excellent electronic and print media coverage, including a GIS Day-themed interview of NRIS managers on a local radio talk show, television news interviews including one story that ran on affiliates across Montana, and a photo in Helena's local newspaper, the *Independent Record*.

For more information about GIS Day events around the world, including photos of the Helena events, visit ESRI's website at: <http://gis.esri.com/gisday/>



Above: T.J. Abbenhaus, NRIS GIS Programmer/Analyst, explains to students at Jefferson School in Helena that Montana's northern border curves. Below: The same students practice drawing contours for topographic maps on their hands.





Big Sky Libraries

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Karen Strege, State Librarian

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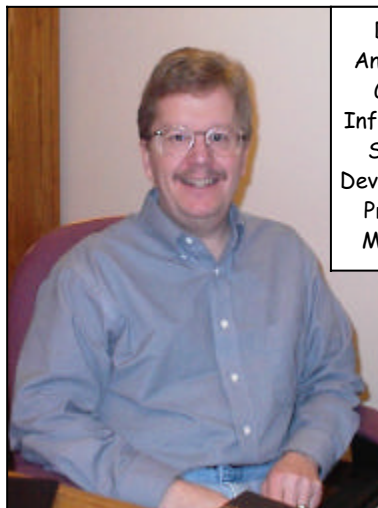
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Spotlight: Duane Anderson, GIS & Information System Development Program Manager

Duane Anderson joined the State Library in the fall of 1998 as the Water Information System Coordinator for the Natural Resource Information System (NRIS). In 2000, after the completion of a strategic planning exercise at NRIS, his job was redefined as the manager of the GIS and Information System Development section of NRIS.

Duane has a Bachelor's degree in zoology from Montana State University and a Master's degree in Marine Biology from the University of Oregon.

Prior to his arrival at NRIS, Duane spent 13 years working in



Duane
Anderson,
GIS &
Information
System
Development
Program
Manager

the Pacific Northwest in several capacities related to salmon and steelhead recovery efforts. These efforts included database work and biological modeling for

the Northwest Power Planning Council.

Duane then accepted a position with the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission, where he served as the database manager for a regional salmon and steelhead information system known as StreamNet.

Duane and his wife Marlene have 2 daughters, Hannah and Katie. The family enjoys living in Montana and all of the outdoor opportunities it provides.

